

Naad नाद

All India Kashmiri Samaj

अखिल भारतीय कश्मीरी समाज

"Saree Samhan Yeth Razi Lamhan Ada Kyazi Ravi Hai Kahan Gav" — Lalleshwari

Vol. 8, Nos. 7

July, 1998

Id Millad-u-Nabi, was celebrated with the fervour and dignity that Prophet of Islam's birthday deserves. May Prophet Mohammad's teachings instill some good sense into the empty heads of the terrorists who, in the name of Islam, indulge in the most inhuman and un-Islamic crimes against the innocent and god-fearing people of Algeria, Egypt, Afghanistan and India's Jammu and Kashmir State.

३० जुलाई, अमर
कृति 'रामचरित
मानस' के अमर
रचनाकार



गोस्वामी तुलसीदास की जयंती
है। वर्तमान स्थिति पर मंथरा के
ये शब्द (कैकेयी को कहे गए)
कितने सटीक हैं :

'कोऊ नृप होय हमें का हानी
चेरी छाड़ि के होऊ न रानी'

Very very few
persons and parties
remembered the
great scholar Bal
Gangadhar Tilak,
the author of *Geeta*



Rahasya, the immortal scholarly
commentary of *Shrimad Bhagwat
Geeta*, on his birthday — 23rd July.
More than a century ago he thundered
in a court before a British judge
"Swarajya is my birthright and I shall
have it." It became a battle-cry of
many generations of fighters for
India's freedom.

Contents

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| ■ Speaking Personally | □ By Editor | 1 |
| ● DODA - Butchery of minority community members continues unabated | | |
| ● DODA contonement- A sound proposal shot down | | |
| ■ Shyam Kaul's Agony of Kashmir – A rare blend of journalism and literature | □ A Report | 2 |
| ■ Kashmiri Samiti's Memorandum to Union Home Minister | | 4 |
| ■ Chandigarh Meeting — 'Building A Strong Tomorrow...' | □ Vijay Kumar Kaul | 5 |
| ■ To him who is no more | □ Sarwanand Kaul 'Premi' | 6 |
| ■ NOIDA Kashmiri Migrants Appeal to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee | | 7 |
| ■ Massacre of Hindus in Chapnari condemned Presidential rule in Kashmir demanded | □ Dr. Jagan Kaul | 8 |
| ■ Mini, More Than A Pet | □ Neeti Ramkrishnan | 9 |
| ■ NEWS | | 11 |
| ■ LETTERS | | 13 |
| ■ पुस्तक समीक्षा | | |
| ● चिनार के आँसू | □ अर्जुन देव मजबूर | 16 |
| ■ तृतीय आवरण | | |
| ● भगवान गोपीनाथ जी | □ डा. शशिशेखर तोषखानी | |

KASHYAP RISHI SEHKARI AWAS SAMITI LTD

**9/85, Sec 3, Rajinder Nagar, Sahibabad,
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We are glad to inform our *Biradari* that the allotment of the plots in Phase-I of the Kashyap Rishi Housing Society was completed on 3.7.98 in presence of Sh H N Jattoo, President AIKPS; Sh T N Wanchoo, Gen Secy AIKS; Sh M L Tikoo, Treasurer of AIKS; Sh Ramesh Manvati of *Panun Kashmir* and Sh Virender Dhar, Ex Secretary, Kashmir Samiti, Delhi. We thank them for their participation in the function and also for their blessings on this historic achievement.

Now our future programme is as under:

- (1) Development of Phase-Ist.
- (2) To establish educational trust, handicraft industries on cooperative basis and cooperative bank. The members of the society shall be shareholders of these projects.
- (3) Phase-II adjacent to Phase-I is on the anvil. Some plots are available and interested members should apply immediately. Registration cum allotment will be made on first come first serve basis.

**P. K RAINA
President**

**Views expressed by authors in Naad
are not necessarily of AIKS or Naad**

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DODA -- Butchery of minority community members continues unabated

Same old tale again. At the heels of the Champnari massacre in which 25 persons were butchered the Muslim terrorists, both local and foreign, struck again in Doda district of Jammu region. This time two villages of Kishtwar Tehsil — Shanna Thakrai and Sarawan — were the target of fanatic Muslim terrorists. Armed to the teeth, they swooped on the villages, and "dragged the inmates out of their houses and opened fire from automatic weapons, killing five persons, including two women, on the spot". Three other victims succumbed to their injuries later. At Sarawan village eight men were gunned down.

It is quite amazing, nay simply baffling, the ease with which they come, they kill and they return to their hide-outs. This horrible situation speaks volumes about the security scenario which exists in the Jammu & Kashmir State at present. As usual, routinely from President, to Prime Minister to Home Minister and to the State Chief Minister who, like the proverbial Neor is fiddling -- holidaying in London -- while Doda is burning, they shed tons of crocodile tears, and keep ready another routine statement for the next horrendous bloodbath, which surely will take place when the ISI and its terrorist outfits at their convenience decide to perpetrate.

Their two-fold aim is quite clear: First, to drive out minority Hindu community from the Muslim majority areas of Jammu province, through killings, arson, loot and rape, as they did in Kashmir Valley with the Kashmiri Pandit minority. Thus annexing Kashmir and parts of Jammu to Pakistan. Second, to create the conditions for a major communal divide in Jammu and

the rest of India, which will weaken the Indian state and threaten its national integration.

In this context we must not forget that Pakistan's ISI has spread its tentacles throughout the length and breadth of our country -- from north to south and from east to west. In this nefarious design Pakistan is backed by a few Muslim countries wedded to fundamentalist Islamic ideology! Even a powerful section of the US administration is not averse to such happenings which are unleashed with the active connivance of Pakistan, their client state. This situation also keeps open the door of their meddling -- so called mediation -- in Kashmir.

DODA contonement — A sound proposal shot down

Once upon a time a sound, security friendly proposal was mooted by concerned far-sighted Indian leadership to build a contonement in Doda. This proposal, if implemented would immensely benefit the Doda region's development and provide teeth to both State and as well as national security interests. But this proposal of far reaching importance was shot-down by none other than late illustrious Sheikh Moham-

med Abdullah himself, for reasons best known to him and the then personnel who were at the helm of affairs then. The Congress Government of the day was vehemently criticised, and rightly so, by the same persons and parties -- though their nomenclatures have changed many a time since then -- who are occupying the seats of power now. The present outfit at the Centre can and is capable of reviving and implementing the contonement proposal now, thus safeguarding our national security which is threatened many fold now. Moreover, this proposal of far reaching consequences, can and should form a part of Home Minister Advani's famous pro-active scheme of things, which incidentally is not heard about any more.

All concerned in the Vajpayee Government and sitting in the Opposition should remember that three National Conference MPs, who dutifully follow their leader Farooq Abdullah, are bound to oppose the proposal. But ironically, in the present scenario, the three MPs may be much more equal than the scores and scores of innocent persons who are massacred with sickening regularity.

Tailpiece: When Parankot carnage was let loose by the Islamic terrorists killing 25 Hindus, Home Minister Advani in spite of heavy engagements, air-dashed to console the kith and kin of the victims. This time he only sent his Home Secretary to get a report. This, indeed is "good progress".



Jammu Press Club Releases Shyam Kaul's *Agony of Kashmir* A rare blend of journalism and literature

JAMMU: *Agony of Kashmir*, (published by Sehyog Prakashan, New Delhi) a collection of articles by veteran Kashmiri journalist, Mr Shyam Kaul, was released at a simple but impressive function in the Press Club of Jammu here.

Mr Ved Bhasin (Editor-in-Chief of *Daily Kashmir Times*) presided over the function while veteran litterateurs and journalists Prof Ram Nath Shastri, Prof Jagan Nath Azad, Mr Balraj Puri and Mr S P Sahni were the guests of honour on the occasion. A large number of litterateurs, journalists and academicians were present.

The contribution of Mr Shyam Kaul to journalism, his lucid style and analytical mind were commended by the different speakers.

Mr S P Sahni mentioned his long association with Shyam Kaul and said that he was not only a gifted journalist who had served the profession for four decades in different capacities with distinction, honesty and objectivity but also possessed rare human qualities. He had deep knowledge of men and matters and had a style of his own which made his writings readable with high quality.

As the one who had suffered the militancy having been forced to migrate from his dear homeland Mr Kaul was eminently suited to depict the agony of Kashmir to which he had been a sensitive witness.

Prof Ram Nath Shastri while commending the contribution of Mr Shyam Kaul to journalism said it was unfortunate that history of the people of Jammu and Kashmir had not been written so far. This was particularly so about Jammu which lacked any authentic history of the land and its people. What has been produced was the sponsored narration of the

glorified life and achievements of the rulers written at their behest. This, he pointed out, could not be called history.

Prof Shastri said no history book mentioned in detail the heroic struggle of the people, of stalwarts like Mian Deedo, Data Ranpat and Captain Gandarbh Singh who fought for freedom and for protecting and preserving it. Similarly no authentic account of literary and cultural stalwarts who laid the foundations of a rich cultural heritage was available. He commended the role of *The Kashmir Times* in general and late Ved Pal Deep in particular in highlighting and introducing the cultural heritage through his "Cultural Notes". He suggested the compilation of a book based on these "Cultural Notes" for posterity.

Prof Shastri asked Mr Shyam Kaul and other journalists to devote their attention to this neglected aspect of life. He regretted that no concrete steps have been taken to provide congenial atmosphere and security for Kashmiri migrants to return to their hearths and homes.

He said that Jammu had the unparallel distinction of absorbing large number of displaced persons from time to time. From Muslim artisans and professionals from Punjab and other northern areas during Ahmed Shah Abdali's invasions, to displaced persons from Pakistan occupied areas after tribal raids and now Kashmiri Pandits. Jammu had ungrudgingly and proudly absorbed several lakhs of people. They have enriched Jammu's socio-cultural life with their varied contributions and have totally mixed with the original Dogra inhabitants. He hoped that Kashmiri Pandits too

will feel at home in this land.

Mr Balraj Puri while commending the contribution of Mr Shyam Kaul to journalism and praising his rich style dwelt at length about the age old traditions of Kashmir. He also praised the contribution of Kashmiri Pandits to the composite culture of Kashmir.

He said that besides loss of human lives and property what was more painful was the distortion of Kashmiri ethos and its composite culture. He expressed the hope that KPs, who had suffered a lot, would soon be able to return to their homeland and revive the age-old glorious traditions.

Mr Abdul Hafiz mentioned his long association with Mr Shyam Kaul and praised his qualities of head and heart.

Mr Shyam Talib also commended the contribution of Shyam Kaul in the field of journalism.

Expressing his gratitude both to the speakers and the audience Shyam Kaul said it was difficult for him to say anything about his own contribution to life and judge the quality of his book. It was for the discerning readers to give their judgement. He had penned down his inner thoughts and portrayed the men and events as he felt about them. He owed it to the beautiful Valley, its lakes, mighty *Chinars* and grandeur where he was born and grew and to the people who suffered along with him to write about them as objectively as possible.

Mr Ved Bhasin praised Mr Shyam Kaul for his multi-dimensional genius, his inimitable style, gift of the pen and sincerity in depicting his inner thoughts without any prejudices and malice.

He said Kashmir had produced brilliant journalists like Prem Nath

Bazaz, Maulana Masoodi, Janki Nath Zutshi in forties, S P Sahni, R K Kak and Nand Lal Wattal in fifties, Shamim Ahmed Shamim, Mohammed Sayeed Malik, O N Koul and Shyam Kaul in sixties. Shyam Kaul, he said, had enriched the profession with his own contribution.

Mr Bhasin described Shyam Kaul as a brilliant journalist with rare transparency, incisive and penetrating mind, lucid style, a lovable friend and a trusted colleague. He had the rare qualities of head and heart. What was remarkable about him was his humility and absence of any ego.

Mr Bhasin said he had the occasions to disagree with Mr Kaul's views but that had in no way affected his relationship or clouded his admiration for him. He was proud to publish his articles despite such disagreement occasionally. Because whatever he writes flows out of his sincerity of purpose and commitment to healthy journalism.

Mr Bhasin said that Mr Kaul had a literary style and it was difficult to say whether what he writes is journalism or literature.

Mr Bhasin said that Kashmir had suffered immensely during the past ten years of violence and bloodshed with the innocent people caught in the crossfire. The loss cannot be measured only in terms of loss to life and property or displacement of thousands of people but more in the distortion of the glorious traditions of Kashmir, its tolerance, its catholicity, its ethos, its composite culture and its human values of love, brotherhood and peace. He expressed the hope that peace would soon return to the Valley and its age-old traditions revived and strengthened. Mr Shyam Kaul and other journalists and litterateurs, he hoped, would contribute their might in this direction.

The function was ably and imaginatively conducted by Mr R K Bharti who also presented a paper on Mr Shyam Kaul's book.

NHRC elected as Chair of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions

THE Commission has been unanimously reelected as the Chair of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions. It has been holding this position for the last two years.

Though the Commission has offered at Merida, Mexico in November 1997 as well as more recently in Geneva in April 1998 that it be relieved of this charge, all participating institutions of the Coordinating Committee of National Institutions have reposed faith in the Commission and proposed that the Indian Commission continue to be the Chair for another year.

The International Coordinating Committee was constituted by the National Institutions in order to increase cooperation and collaboration between themselves. Two years ago, the NHRC assumed the Chairmanship of this Coordinating Committee and it has continued to do so since then despite considerable pressure on it by way of workload. There are now 16 members of the Coordinating Committee viz National Institutions of Australia, Cameroon,

Canada, France, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Sweden, Tunisia, South Africa, Denmark, Morocco, Latvia and Togo.

Action plan on video filming of postmortems

THE Commission has drawn up an action plan to view, by 31 May 1998, all video films of postmortems that have been received in the Commission. So far, the Commission has received 198 video cassettes, of which 79 have already been viewed. The Commission has also decided to constitute a panel of forensic experts to assist it in this regard. This panel will evolve general guidelines for video filming of post-mortems, prescribing the nature and duration of the filming, the kinds of shots to be taken (close-up, long etc.) and those aspects of postmortem examination that require to be carefully filmed. The forensic experts will also develop a format for the use of the Commission's officers. Ten per cent of the video films, it has also been decided, will be sent to forensic experts for detailed analysis.

Agony of Kashmir By SHYAM KAUL

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Kashmiri Samiti's Memorandum to Union Home Minister

The Union Home Minister, Shri Lal Krishan Advani, assured a delegation of Kashmiri Samiti Delhi (KSD), led by its president C L Gadoo, that the Central Government will give full thought to the problems the Kashmiri Pandits have been facing for the past nine years due to their exodus from Kashmir forced on them by Pakistan-abetted and aided terrorism in the Valley. A memorandum presented to the Home Minister outlined, apart from the atrocities perpetrated on the minuscule community since 1989-90, their outstanding demands which were cold shouldered with utter callousness and apathy by successive governments in the State and at the Centre during these frightful nine years.

Political Demands: The memorandum demanded adequate political representation to this "numerically small minority" in the State's and national legislatures, appointment of its members in the administration and judiciary of the State so as to give them a voice and a hand in mitigating their miseries. It demanded their rehabilitation and free flow of funds for these purposes; suitable representation in various high-power commissions, appointment of a compact commission with widest possible terms to uncover the ground actualities in the State, and another commission to identify the "prime criminals" who indulged in inhuman torture, death, destruction, loot, rape, and arson in the State so as to bring them to book and punish them under law.

The memorandum asked the State legislature as well as the Parliament

to pass a resolution "acknowledging that atrocities were committed against the Kashmiri Pandits, who were made to flee their millennia-old homeland to escape death and dishonour". It also demanded that the exiled community be counted as 'refugees' rather than 'migrants' which is a wrong and misleading nomenclature for a doubly wronged community.

Economic and Social Demands:

1. Establishment of self-contained townships, complete with all educational facilities, hygiene and medical facilities, infrastructure for employment generation and reliable measures of safety and security, built around big cities of India.

2. Special provisions for admission of displaced youth seeking education at all levels, technical, professional, etc throughout the country.

3. Absorption of educated/trained youth in all State/Central Government organisations with age relaxation of up to ten years; fixation of quota for employment of displaced youth for their recruitment in J&K Government and their posting in Jammu and Ladakh areas for reasons of security, for the present.

4. Lumpsum grant of Rs. 5 lacs to the displaced Hindus of Kashmir who were self-employed in business, small-scale industries, and other professions and avocations to help them to rehabilitate themselves in their respective pursuits.

5. Return of houses, factories, shops, godowns, stocks, orchards, agricultural land, livestock, etc of

the displaced and dispossessed people seized illegally and compensation for destroyed properties at prevalent market rates.

6. Extension of general insurance facilities to displaced persons without insisting on certain procedures and conventional practices.

7. Temples, shrines, places of pilgrimage, *ashrams*, cremation grounds and other institutions and their properties, desecrated and seized by the terrorists, must be restored to the rightful people in their original condition.

8. Cancellation of the current distress sales forced upon the displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

9. Kashmiri Hindus who are not registered should be allowed to get themselves registered in Delhi and other parts of the country on the lines as is being done for the Muslim majority community of the Valley in Jammu.

10. Substantial increase to Rs. 5,000/- per month as monthly allowance and linked to the cost of living index to the dispossessed/displaced people in view of the mounting costs of essentials for their survival.

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Chandigarh Meeting (2nd, 3rd May 1998)

'Building A Strong Tomorrow ...'

□ VIJAY KUMAR KAUL

General Secretary, Kashmiri Sewak Samaj, Faridabad

Faridabad is home for 1,000 Kashmiri Pandit couples today. Before displacement from Kashmir in 1990, the town had 150 KP families only. The Kashmiri Pandits living in Faridabad are socially cohesive and are viewed by members of other communities as a source for social empowerment. Members of Kashmiri Samaj enjoy a respectful place in their respective spheres of work and have played role of leaders in many cases. The prime source of social recognition accorded to Kashmiri Pandits is our President Shri J N Kaul, who as President of SOS Children's Villages of India, has contributed significantly in the field of child welfare and social development.

Members of Kashmiri Samaj in Faridabad hold three social functions every year.

1. Annual picnic: This is largely attended and provides a chance to meet one another in a relaxed and joyous mood. Picnic is held in March/April every year.

2. Havan: Ram Navami is a special festival as we celebrate the annual Havan on this day. Naveed is served to around thousand members. We have guests on this day from Delhi, NOIDA, Gurgaon, Sahibabad and Ghaziabad.

3. Independence Day: To inculcate a feeling of belonging to the community, create a competitive spirit and build the motivational profile of our young ones, the Independence Day is celebrated. Children take part in games and perform on the stage. Prize distribution for children takes place.

Building A Strong Tomorrow: HUDA has allotted 1,700 square yards of land to KSS. This shall be utilised to build a structure that shall make the entire KP community feel proud all over the world. A hostel for 75 girls, a hall to house our cultural artifacts on the threshold of being lost for ever, a marriage hall,

prayer hall with *Maa Sharika* as the deity, a free medical centre, a dwelling unit with community library and rooms, yoga centre and modern amenities for the Gurujis. The complex when complete shall reinforce the view of KPs as trendsetters, the mark they had established in the days of yore. Our Treasurer Shri P N Dhar and our lady executive member Smt Sheela Bakshi played a key role in our efforts to get the allotment made to KSS, more so at the most attractive location in Faridabad.

Educating the Young from Camps:

Helmut Kutin Vocational Training Centre managed and started by SOS Children's Villages of India trains every year 50 boys and girls mainly from camps. This is a project of the AIKS, with KSS its affiliate, playing the host in terms of help in logistics and making the students feel at home. Dr S K Rawal, former General Secretary of KSS, played a key role in setting up the hostels for the boys and girls and equipping these with

modern amenities. Shri Vinod Tamir, and Virender Rawal run the course and have served the community cause with sincerity and devotion. This endeavour of educating the youth had made many a young ones worthy of securing good jobs and a source of succour to their families in Jammu. 1988 has been a very special year for members of our Samaj. *Hari Parbat* a replica of our sacred *Hari Parbat* at Srinagar, came into being at village Anangpur in Faridabad. This project is an individual effort of Shri J N Kaul, whom the Panchayat of the village entrusted with a hillock of 8 acre area, facilitated construction of the stairway leading to the temple on the hilltop under completion now. The KP community has received a boost in its image among the locals. They feel that *Hari Parbat* would lead to economic development of Anangpur, wean away their young from social evils and create amity and brotherhood. President Shri Kaul has many, what he calls as 'wild' ideas brewing in his mind, such as building one room huts for *Chintan*, developing a *Dharam Shala* in an area that would be called eventually the *Devi Angan*.

Thank you and wishing the members presented peace and prosperity.

Nanda Bab — An Appeal

Swami Nand Lal Jee popularly known as Nanda Bab has been one of the most important saints of Kashmir. His miracles and his prophecies in all walks of life are most interesting and even baffling.

There is no memento for this great saint and we want to publish a booklet about his life and his spiritual wonders. We have already some material with us pertaining to Swamiji. We would appeal to all who can give us more authentic details about his life and his miracles on the following addresses as soon as possible. This saint has been ignored for a long time and we are afraid that after some time people may not know anything about him.

All contributions and materials

concerning Swamiji will be duly acknowledged and appreciated. Immediate and spontaneous response will be welcome for expeditious publication. Relevant photostat copies of Swamiji's chits and *Parvanas* may be helpful in elucidating some anecdotes.

1. Justice J N Bhat (Retd.),
47, Lower Laxmi Nagar,
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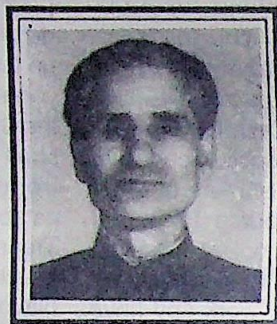
2. Sh Prithvi Nath Razdan,
House No. 46, Shyam Vihar,
Lane No. 2, Gole Pully,
Talab Tillo, Jammu (Tawi)

Note: Shri P N Razdan's two forthcoming books are: *Gems of Kashmiri Literature and Kashmiriyat* and *Ticklish Stories*.

Very few people know that late Pt. Sarwanand Kaul 'Premi', sometimes dabbled in writing English poetry also. One such time was when his nephew met a fatal accident on his 20th birthday. This intensely disturbed the poet emotionally. And the result was the following verses in English. The poem was made available to us by late poet's son Shri Rajendra Premi, who is the Joint Secretary of AIKS.

To him who is no more

□ SARWANAND KAUL 'Premi'



1. Dust, to thee, the roses bed,
Road-side, the peace-abode,
Chinars, with their hanging leaves, fresh and green,
The shelter and the guard to thee,
Foreigners, all, what they could show,
Their sympathies and love, were
Thy own, in the hour of
The deep sleep, undisturbed and eternal.

2. Snow melted away with the sea,
Light with the light Divine,
The drop mixed with the waters
For ever and never to depart,
From Him, who has lulled thee,
in His arms, upon His lovely breast.

3. Thou in heaven — in a sleep
Undisturbed and sweet;
We, here on the frying pan
restless, crying, with breasts striking,
O' Love embodiment! No care
for our tears, woes and cries—
From the deepest corners of our hearts,
With deaf ears to our calls of
Sorrow, distress and unhealing wounds.

4. Thou standing before, calm and serene,
With smiling face and charming complexion,
But still with a shyful mood
whispering, murmuring to our ears,
Still before our eyes — mortal.
Ah! — was all this a dream?

5. Airy castles — all dashed
to the ground; all thinking gone,
Imaginations all, but, faded;
What remains, but memory
of the past never to return again,
What was just is not now,
All that was, is no more.

6. Full score of young years,
A day not less nor more,

Have ended all their phases,
Phenomenae of the life and flesh —
Mortal, changing and transitory.
Ah! — All that was, has
faded for ever and ever,
Dark and gloom around.

7. O' God! Compassionate and Merciful
Who can call thou so?
Who art so cruel and unjust,
To snatch a gem, once gifted,
One dozen and eight summers back.
A bullet Thou hast given,
Stuck in our hearts;
Not death, nor healing — no way
Like fish out of water.
O God! So much cruelty and injustice!

8. Oh' Som! thou hast reached
The Kingdom of the Divine
where the road of *Sansar* leads.
Think not, feel not, thyself alone,
For, we all will join thee
One by one, sooner or later,
When call comes from Above.
But crave for forgiveness,
For delay and absence.

9. With hands stretched above,
With eyes wide open,
With mouth agap — shivering.
Looking to Him, who is Unseen
Praying to Him, who hears —
Though cruel, Compassionate,
Merciful, whatever He may be called —
"Peace be unto the Soul, Departed!"

NOIDA Kashmiri Migrants Appeal to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee

Respected Sir,

At the very outset let me, on behalf of myself and my *Biradari* members of NOIDA heartily congratulate you on assuming leadership of the country as the Prime Minister at a time when the whole country is in a state of economic, social and political chaos. We have firm faith that your farsight wisdom and conviction will pull out this country from this morass.

Sir, you are aware that our minuscule community of Kashmiri Pandits known for their secular ideals have been rendered refugees in their own country due to Islamic terrorism in Kashmir. For past nine years and more scores of seminars, symposia, conferences have been held to attract attention of the successive Central Governments to our plight, but due to their complete apathy our terrible plight, nothing tangible has emerged.

These Governments have been insensitive to our human problems, which in recent past resulted in Sangrampora, Gole Gulab Garb and Wandahama massacres of our community members. They have been insensitive to the plights of those who live in most subhuman conditions in tattered tents in camps in

Jammu, Udhampur, Nagrota, Delhi and other parts of the country. If we do not form a vote bank do we cease to be Indians? Are the fundamental constitutional safeguards not applicable in our case?

Sir, you are fully conversant with all the events of this human tragedy and we, as a community, owe you and your party debt of gratitude for giving us both moral and to a great extent, economic support both directly and indirectly.

About three hundred families of our community were a part of the mass exodus that took place in 1989-90, and took refugees in NOIDA. Uttar Pradesh Government has sanctioned a paltry cash relief of Rs 750/- per month per family to about 180 families. In this connection we have to make to you, Sir, the following submission:

1. This petty relief is given to us erratically and there is a backlog of more than a year. UP Government may, kindly, be asked to make monthly payments as is being done at Jammu and Delhi.

2. BJP has since resolved to bring at par the cash relief to the Kashmiri migrants, wherever it is being disbursed.

This resolution could not be implemented in our case due to dismissal of Kalyan Singh Government in 1992. Orders for bringing this relief at par with Delhi at Rs. 1800/- per month may, kindly, be issued to mitigate our sufferings to some extent.

3. To ask the Uttar Pradesh Government to allot land in NOIDA to Kashmiri migrant families, even on quasi-permanent basis and grant them soft loans, so as to enable them to live as normal human beings. It is not possible for poor migrants to pay exorbitant rents with paltry resources.

We the Kashmiri displaced and dispossessed people, mis-named migrants living in NOIDA, District Gautam Budh Nagar, would pray for an early action on the abovementioned points as a stop-gap arrangement before our return to the valley, to our homes and hearths with honour and dignity is made possible.

With respectful regards,

Yours faithfully
Sd/- O N CHANNA
PRESIDENT

Kashmiri Migrants' Association NOIDA
D-47, Sector-12, NOIDA-201301 (UP)

RAHUL RAZDAN Mahanori's Three Poems

1. From shivering cold to blazing heat

Years have passed,
My children continue to suffer in exile,
Facing the wrath of the blazing sun.
Driven out into the wide plains.

Sobbing are my mountains,
Crying are my rivers,
Seeing the plight of my children,
My soul shivers.

The off spring of snows and cold
Thrown out
into the red sun's fold.
Pain and agony
they have to cope,
Days ahead are going to be
Nice and sunny
is their only hope!

2. Treacherous Terrains

Vast lands without population,
Small pillars marking demarcation,
And, ghastly props, symbols of
destruction!

The East is ours,
Yours is the West!
Surrounding dwellers
always under threat.
A fire here, a fire there.
Cross the line?
Nobody dare.
Rattle of guns, crattle of people;
Like intermittent human-springs,
Populace in flight,
Desert border areas, hiding behind rocks
and in woods, for a while.
To avoid being caught in criss-crossfire,
Only to return like a wounded rat,
Back to the den of prowling cat.
To be bounced back, into hiding, for safety.
What a hazardous life in treacherous
terrain!



3. The tunes of tenses

Past --
Saffron,
Red roses,
Warm emotions,
Lovely relations.

White:
Snow capped mountains
peace and tranquility.
Green:
Vast fields,
Beauty of nature.

Present —

Tulips.
Blood,
Hundreds dead,
Thousands fled.
Whitish pallor,
Panicky feelings,
Cold blooded murders,
Mass destruction.
Green:
Misleadings.
False sense of belonging.

Future —

Saffron, white, green:
Real self,
Victory of truth!

Address: 46, Lane-2
Shyam Vihar, Gole Pully
Talab Tiloo, JAMMU (Tawi)-180002

Massacre of Hindus in Chapnari condemned Presidential rule in Kashmir demanded

Statement by DR. JAGAN KAUL,
National Advisor, Indo-American Kashmir Forum

We strongly and unequivocally condemn the latest massacre of Hindu wedding party in the remote village of Chapnari in Doda District of Jammu province in which more than 26 people were gunned down by Pak-trained mercenaries and the hired killers of the Pan Islamic movement. At this stage when the J&K Government has miserably failed to protect the lives of the loyal citizens we urgently demand that the Indian Government must immediately step in and promulgate Presidential Rule in Kashmir and place the areas heavily infested by the Islamic terrorists under the direct control of the Indian Army. The Army must be given freedom in discharging its responsibility of combing the entire area for flushing out and destroying the agents of death. It would be absolutely useless and even counter productive to entertain illusions that the ruling National Conference and its impotent leadership will restore normalcy in the State. The fact remains that the National Conference and its Government represents a significant force behind the Kashmir imbroglio. Any independent investigation could prove without a shadow of doubt that *the net outcome of the National Conference policies and actions during the last 50 years has been the brutal Islamization of Kashmir.* The treacherous and anti-secular role of the National Conference and its leadership must not be underestimated. The sooner New Delhi recognizes the prevailing ground realities brought about by the National Conference-led "forced transformation" of Kashmir the sooner it will find a solution for the internal communal crisis of Kashmir.

The Indo-American community had

hoped that with the change of government in New Delhi the fate of the Kashmiri Hindus might receive a degree of special attention and their safety and security would improve. **There are strong indications though that even the BJP Government has remained unsuccessful in enforcing law and order in Kashmir State and its promise of "giving a taste of their own medicine to Islamic mercenaries" remained unfulfilled.** The massacre at Chapnari marks the third major mass murder of Hindus during the BJP rule in India. **We ask — how long the genocide of Hindus will be allowed to continue?** It seems clear now that the change of government has not brought about the change in policies and conditions and the murder of Hindus routinely continues. Even the testing of the 'earth shaking' nuclear devices (five of them) has not put an end to the on going genocide of Hindus in Kashmir and the terrorists remain undeterred. **This is time that the Vajpayee Government develop a firm and result yielding policy**

for restoring normalcy in the State even if that requires taking punitive measures like destroying the terrorists camps across the border and taking the 'proxy war' against India back to where it came from.

The United National Security Council, the United States, Great Britain, France and the entire Western world cried wolf and did not hesitate to strongly condemn India and put in the 'dog house' for having tested the nuclear devices. Where are these self proclaimed champions of 'peace and human rights' when the Hindus of Kashmir are being murdered in such large numbers with a remarkable regularity. The Pan Islamic movement and its front line foot soldier, Pakistan, have been targeting and destroying the Hindus of Kashmir for the last 10 years and the leaders of the so-called 'civilized world' have not done a 'damn thing' to stop this death and destruction. By remaining silent and ignoring these mass murders which have cost tens of thousands of Hindu lives these prophets of the New World Order are inevitably becoming an accomplice to the latest genocide of the 20th century. Such a callous indifference on the part of the world leaders must receive universal condemnation.



Mini, More Than A Pet

□ NEETI RAMKRISHNAN [VI standard, 11 years]

My mother Anita was then in 12th standard. As the dawn broke in a Kerala's remote village, a soft purring was heard from the kitchen of a big old fashioned house where my mother lived. As my grandmother opened the kitchen door she saw that the pet cat had given birth to three kittens under the kitchen slab. Their eyes shut, the kittens were lying beside their mother. Grandmother murmured to herself "Always these kittens are born in our kitchen". Now I understood why she was hanging around here for some days. As the mother-cat looked hungrily into my grandmother's eyes she remembered that the cat must be hungry. She took out a fish; the next moment it was in her mother cat's tummy.

One whole week the sound of the slapping chappals of grandmother's was heard in the house. She was over busy — going around and feeding the kittens, cleaning their baskets and laying fresh hay in them. When the kittens were 10 days old they opened their eyes and started walking. One day in the night the mother-cat went prowling, leaving her kittens alone. Then a stray dog appeared on the scene. Next morning the dead body of the mother-cat was found under a coconut tree in the grove. The three little kittens were now left alone without anyone to look after them. But kind grandfather decided to 'adopt' them and make them also pets like their mother-cat. Mother and her younger brother Subhash were happy about the decision and began to feed the kittens with milk with a milk bottle. But this happiness lasted only for a few days. The youngest kitten died of diarrhoea. This was a great sorrow for the whole household. Now two kittens were left: one male and the other female. Black coloured male named 'Manian' and the milky white female was called 'Mini'. They played in the garden and rolled about in the haystack. When hungry they would race up to the kitchen and appear before grandma who would give them some food. They would eat quickly and go out again to play.

If anybody tried to pick up Manian he

would show his claws and tried to frighten everybody. But Mini was not the one to be frightened. She didn't fear anyone. They were grown up cats now.

One day Manian disappeared without any trace. All search proved in vain. Now poor Mini was left alone. For a few days she kept looking for Manian, making strange sounds which sounded like crying. It was a sad sight to see Mini's frantic search of her lost brother!

Now Mini was the only pet in the house. She was everybody's darling. The person she liked the most was my mother. In the night she slept at my mother's feet. She refused to sleep on a jute sack spread on the floor. Even when grandma shut all the entries to our mother's bedroom, Mini would find her way to grandpa's bedroom and slept at his feet. At dawn she would feel very hungry. She would straight away go to grandma's room and purred continuously like an alarm clock. Grandma understood Mini's purring alarm quite well. She would go to the kitchen and take out the day before's milk to feed her. But Mini wouldn't touch the stale milk. So for the darling Mini grandma had to take a bucket to the cowshed to milk the cow. Mini followed the latter wagging her tail. While grandma milked the cow, Mini jumped into the manger and played there. The cow didn't mind that at all. In fact slowly they became friends.

Mini enjoyed fresh milk immensely. After filling her tummy, she would go for a morning walk. When mother and her younger brother would go to the main road to catch their school bus, Mini would follow them. Mewing them good bye there, she would return. She would then start her exercise, to say, by jumping on small trees and scratching their trunks. Mini loved to play with butterflies and would play skillfully 'catch'n catch' with them. After finishing this exercise Mini would go to the drawing room where grandpa used to read the morning newspaper. To draw grandpa's attention Mini would dance to the tune of flapping newspaper pages. And after breakfast grandpa left for school where he was the



principal, Mini would be left with grandma. She would give her a fish to eat. She ate it with great relish. After feasting on the fish she would follow grandma to the backyard, where Mini would stand beside grandmother and mew gently. Grandma fully understood the meaning of Mini's mewing. This meant Mini is hungry. Mini did not like the presence of hens, cats, dogs and other pets from the neighbourhood. But to our great surprise she had friendship with the other pets of our household.

Mini knew very well the time of our mother's coming from school in the afternoon. She would eagerly wait for mother at the gate as if to welcome her. A thing that surprised everyone of us was that Mini relished *Sambar* and *Papads*! Because of this she was nick named *Sambar* cat. After lunch it was again playtime for Mini. But this time she had a playmate. It was my mother. They both would go to the verandah; mother carrying a bright red plastic ball. Mini would pounce on the red rolling ball like a tiger pounces on its prey. She would lift the ball in her mouth and run back to mother, who would throw the ball again and again.

When uncle Suresh would return from his college, Mini would disappear. Normally cats can climb stairs and trees quickly. But slowly her fear faded away. And she began to accompany mother to her study room upstairs. While mother would study, Mini would jump suddenly into mother's lap. Then mother would tickle her, Mini enjoyed this tickling so thoroughly that she would express it by mewing loudly. Like this days, weeks, months and even years passed. Mini's lovely pranks and naughty antics made her a part and parcel of our home!

But then something happened; something very unpleasant! . . . In a religious ceremony many guests were coming and going. And Mini, now a full grown cat, was sitting beside our grandpa on the sofa. Our guests saw this. They didn't like this sight at all. How could a cat be present at an auspicious ceremony like this. The angry looks of the guests, angered our grandma and mother's elder brother also. Hence they hatched a conspiracy to get rid of Mini. Mother did not know anything about their evil plan. Next day when our mother had gone to her college, grandmother caught hold of Mini and put her in a basket. She hired an auto-rickshaw and went to the other side of the railway station, three kilometers away.

She opened the basket and out jumped Mini. I am sure, she must have felt quite sad!

Meanwhile, mother returned from her college, she was astonished that Mini was not at the gate to receive her. She searched for her pet but Mini was nowhere. Then she asked the grandma, who reluctantly told her the truth. Mother was very upset and started crying. She did not touch her lunch and even did not take her dinner. At night our home was covered with a blanket of quietness and gloom. There was no usual mewing and purring of our Mini.

But then a miracle happened! At midnight a purring was heard at the doorstep. Grandfather woke up by the familiar sound. He grabbed his torch and opened the door. And lo and behold! She stood there, our darling Mini with her beautiful green eyes gleaming in the torch light! A wave of pleasant surprise shok our home. All members of the house grandma, mother and others stood there in amazement. It was Mini's homecoming. Mini looked at grandmother with a strange gaze. I thought there was a question in her eyes. "Why did you forget to take me with you?" Then she came in and was her normal joyous self again. All of us realized, particularly our grandma that Mini was more than a pet, an inseparable part of our family!

107, Link Apartments
10, I.P. Extension, Patparganj,
Delhi-110092

ROLLCALL OF HONOUR

Prof (Mrs) Shamla Mufti

Prof (Mrs) Shamla Mufti was born in November 1927 in an educated middle class family of Kashmiri Muslims at Chisti Kocha, Sona Masjid, Srinagar, Kashmir. During those days educating girls, especially Muslim was considered against the established traditions of Kashmir. However, because of her educated family background she passed matriculation from the Punjab University in first division before 1947.

She was married at an early age to Mufti Ghulam-ud-din. After her marriage she remained confined to her home and hearth for seven long years. But somehow she managed to get the post of a teacher in Govt. Girls School, Gojwara, Srinagar. Meanwhile, she passed intermediate examination as a private candidate.

With the establishment of women's college in Srinagar in 1950, she continued her studies as a regular candidate. She passed BA with good second division marks and stood first in Persian in the university. In 1955, she passed MA in Persian from the Aligarh Muslim University in first division.

Shamla Mufti was appointed lecturer in Persian in the Women's College in 1955. After working as lecturer for about eleven years she was promoted as Principal in the Govt. Women's College, Nawakadal, where she served for about eight years; then she was transferred to the Women's College, M A Road. She retired in November 1982.

Prof Rehman Rahi an eminent poet and scholar of Kashmiri language has opined: "Shamla Mufti is a respectable literary personality of the Valley. Apart from her personal life her autobiography reflects socio-cultural cum economic and educational aspects of the past fifty years of Kashmir."



Apart from being an educationist, she is a well-known Kashmiri writer whose half a dozen Kashmiri dramas have been successfully staged several times. Recurring theme of her dramas is to bring social awakening in the Kashmiri society.

In addition to these dramas she has adopted and translated in Kashmiri "School for Scandal" of Sheridan.

Her famous drama "Jawahara" brought her the coveted award of the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in 1976, as the best drama of the year.

Shamalaji's dramas reflect social, cultural and economic changes that have taken place in the last five decades in Kashmiri society. She has been an advocate of women's cause and has worked for bringing their point of view to the forefront.

She had also been member of various academies and bodies of the University and is also involved with various social organisations. At present she is the President of Family Planning Association of India, Srinagar branch. Prof Shamla Mufti has visited the USA, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Courtesy: FUNKAAR: An active cultural organisation of Kashmir.

NEWS

JAMMU

Brutal Champnari Killing Condemned

Panun Kashmir strongly condemns the inhuman and dastardly killing of 26 minority Hindus in Doda district of J&K State on 19.6.98.

The continued killing of innocent Hindus, a minority in J&K State, (the third largest after Wandahama and Prankote killings) once again exposes the tall claims of the State administration about the normalcy returning to the State.

Panun Kashmir holds the Farooq Abdullah Government squarely responsible for the continued rise in Islamic fundamentalism in the State and its utter failure and indifference in curbing the militancy in the State.

Panun Kashmir impresses upon the Central Government to take immediate and effective steps so as to restore law and order in the State and protect the lives of innocent Hindus and restore their confidence in the State administration.

Secretary Press
Panun Kashmir, NCR, Delhi
C/o Ramesh Manvati
Chief Coordinator, NCR, Delhi

Champnari Killing Condemned

A meeting of AIKS Purkhoo unit (Jammu) was held on 20th of June, 1998 under the presidentship of Sh Mohan Lal Raina in which all the members of the Samaj participated. Deep shock and pain was expressed over the brutal killing of 25 members of two marriage parties by terrorists in Champnari village of Doda district on 19.6.98.

Speakers unanimously condemned the senseless bloodbath. This massacre has exposed the evil design of militants who in the name of *Jihad* are shedding blood of innocent minority community. The meeting demanded immediate steps to apprehend the culprits responsible for

the crime. The meeting extended its deep sympathies to the bereaved families.

The meeting also expressed deep shock and pain over the road accident near Nandini on Jammu-Udhampur road on 19.6.98 in which 51 persons were killed and 15 others seriously injured. Deep sympathy was expressed for the all bereaved family members.

R L WANCHOO
General Secretary
AIKS Purkhoo Camp (Jammu)

BJP Government's Evasive Attitude

The Working Committee of Kashmiri Hindu Fire Sufferers Forum (Jammu) has expressed surprise over Central Government's continued silence and evasive attitude towards displaced community which is being victimised and discriminated against for their 'crime' of being patriotic and secular.

According to Forum General Secretary P N Tufchi the Working Committee met under Presidentship of Shri B L Koul and recorded its anger and resentment over Union Home Minister L K Advani maintaining graveyard silence during his two-day visit to J&K State. Accompanied by a high level team, Shri Advani was generous to people of the State by sanctioning several welfare schemes for the Valley but unfortunately Shri Advani chose to ignore the beleaguered community which bore the brunt of terrorists. Not a word was spoken about their pathetic condition.

Shri Tufchi said members of the minority community were disillusioned with the appeasement policies and demanded that BJP Government should come out with white paper about the community. Irony is that the community is being taken for granted and worst type of persecution is being perpetuated against its members, he observed.

General Secretary of the Forum appealed to Shri Advani to hold meaningful dialogue with the minority community so that their hurt feelings

are assuaged. While State Government is vigorously following a policy of discrimination in all spheres of public life with the community, it is high time that Central Government come to their rescue, otherwise the community already scattered will get perished. Government should immediately announce a comprehensive economic package besides providing employment to the educated unemployed community youths on war footing.

Mr Tufchi demanded full compensation for the Hindu fire victims' burnt properties in the Valley. Even ex-gratia relief which is sanctioned in their favour is being deliberately delayed. Forum is replete with examples where Hindu houses burnt in 1990 are till date being deprived of this relief, he complained.

Sham Lal Tikoo
Organising Secretary

SRINAGAR

Yatra Pilgrims

With the 22nd batch of 4,834 pilgrims leaving Jammu for Pahalgam on 27 July, the total number of pilgrims joining the annual Amarnath pilgrimage has risen to 97,218, an official spokesman said here.

About 77,500 pilgrims have had 'darshan' of the holy *Shiv Lingam* till 26 July, evening, the spokesman said.

He said so far 64,190 pilgrims have returned after performing the yatra. On Sunday itself 14,103 pilgrims were at Pahalgam and 14,091 at different halting places between Chandanwari and the holy cave shrine, he said.

Meanwhile, two pilgrims, Shah Jagdish Ram Lal of Mumbai and Shakuntla Arora, have been taken ill and hospitalised at Sheshnag and Panjarni hospitals respectively, he said.

Pilgrims' Protest

Thousands of Amarnath pilgrims staged demonstrations in Jammu today saying quota system is not valid for religious pilgrimage, even as rush of pilgrims remains unabated with

Shravana Purnima approaching nearer. The authorities have stopped fresh registration of pilgrims intending to pay obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine in Kashmir Himalayas, an official announcement said here today. Meanwhile, the traditional 'charri poojan' was performed at Srinagar's Dashnami Akhara last evening amidst reciting of religious hymns.

UDHAMPUR

Relief Given to Needy Families

A meeting of AIKS MFSA Trust (Udhampur) was held at Batal Balia Camp (Udhampur) under the chairmanship of MK Wali. In the meeting all unit incharges and AIKS unit president ML Kandroo were present.

Chairman of the Trust thanked all donors who donated for the Yagnopavit ceremony, which was held on 6.7.98 at Batal Balia Camp. One fan was given to Batal Balia Mandir and Rupees two thousand were distributed among seven needy families on this day (6.7.98). Shri ML Kandroo extended full cooperation for the Yagnopavit and chairman Trust gave assurance to AIKS President for meeting the unit strong.

Next meeting of the Trust will be held on 20.7.98 at Sathani unit.

M K Wali
Chairman

AMRITSAR

Kashmiri Pandit Sabha's Office-Bearers

In the general meeting of the Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (Regd), Katra Sher Singh, Amritsar, held under the chairmanship of Shri Durga Nath Kaul on 30.5.98, the following office-bearers were elected unanimously for the year 1998-1999:

1. President, Sh O N Bhatt, 2. Vice President, Sh Vijay Kumar Magazine,
3. Secy. Governing Council, Sh Kanahya Lal Bhatt, 4. General Secretary, Sh Harish Chander Langar,
5. Joint Secretary, Sh. Jagdish Kaul and 6. Cashier Sh Sham Lal Sharma.

Harish Chander Langar
Gen. Secy.

The Hindustan Times special correspondent Mr NC Menon filed the following report to the esteemed Daily, which it carried on 26 July, 1998. The same is reproduced here with due courtesy.

American Congressman Pallone — A crusader for Kashmiri Pandits' just cause

WASHINGTON, July 25 —

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., New Jersey Democrat and founder and co-chairman of the Congressional India Caucus, has launched a pull-out-all-the-stops campaign to direct world attention to the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits, victims of massacres and displacement as a result of the Kashmir conflict.

"As I have gotten to know the Kashmiri-American community, and hearing about the situation facing the Kashmiri Pandits, I have become increasingly outraged — not only at the terrible abuses they have suffered, but at the seeming indifference of the world community," Mr Pallone said.

"At the same time, I am impressed by the dignity and the determination that Kashmiri Pandits have maintained despite their horrible conditions. And I am touched by the deep concern that the Kashmiri-Americans feel for their brothers and sisters living in Kashmir or

in refugee centres."

Mr Pallone intends to take action on several fronts in an effort to help the Pandits. "I would like to see our own State Department, as well as the United Nations, accord the Kashmiri Pandits' humanitarian crisis the high level attention it deserves," Pallone said. "As long as the world community, and, in particular, the number one superpower, keeps this issue on the back-burner, the atrocities will continue.

"The Kashmiri Pandits have an ancient and a proud culture. Their roots in the Valley run deep. Virtually the entire population of 3,00,000 Kashmiri Pandits have been forced to leave their ancestral homes and property. Today, only 2,000 Kashmiri Pandits remain in the Valley. Threatened with violence and intimidation, they have been turned into refugees in their own country.

"Although Pakistani officials maintain that their country only provides 'moral and political support' for the insurgency, evidence shows that Pakistan has been playing a direct role in arming and training the militants who have converted the Kashmir Valley from an earthly paradise into a living hell."

Mr Pallone indicated that he would call on the State Department to raise the Kashmiri Pandit issue whenever Kashmir was discussed by the US and India.

Put Pakistan on the terrorism watch list

A US Congressman has asked the Clinton administration to put Pakistan on the terrorism watch list in view of killings of Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir by militants backed by it and also asked New Delhi to take up the genocide issue with Islamabad in bilateral talks.

Democratic Congressman Frank Pallone while expressing shock and outrage over the latest massacre of the minority community in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, said he was determined to have the issue raised before the United Nations Human Rights Commission, his office said.

Pallone, co-chairman of the

Congressional Caucus for India and Indian Americans, has also written a letter to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee urging him to address the issue of the Kashmiri Pandits' genocide and to create an environment in which the community can return to their homeland in the Valley.

I have the highest respect for Prime Minister Vajpayee — both personally and in his capacity as the elected leader of the world's largest democracy, Mr Pallone said, I know he also grieves over the victimisation of the Kashmiri Pandit community. I hope to work closely with the Indian Government, with the support of the Kashmiri American community, in resolving this humanitarian crisis.

LETTERS

Kashyap Rishi Vihar's flying start

Dear Shri Kachru

We are pleased to inform you that our society has fixed Friday 3rd July 1998 (*Ashad Navami*) as the day for the *Bhoomi Pujan* of the site where the "Kashyap Rishi Vihar" colony is to be built. The *Bhoomi Pujan* will take place at 10 a.m.

We request you to participate in the auspicious function and thus bless the members.

P K RAINA

President,

Kashyap Rishi Sehkar Awas Samiti Ltd
9/85, Sec 3, Rajinder Nagar
Sahibabad, Ghaziabad-201005

1800 Kashmiri Sayings

During my stay in Delhi for four days or so, I have had a chance to go through the contents of *NAAD*, about which I came to know for the first time.

The purpose of writing this communication is to tell that I have collected about 1800 Kashmiri sayings with appropriate English translations. These are published in *The Panchtarni* a publication of Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Panchkula. *Panchtarni* is issued in the form of a newsletter and its publication is limited to 100 and odd copies only. In order to ensure wider circulation of the sayings, I approach you and seek your cooperation for the cause of service to Kashmiri language, which I have found, is as rich as any other foreign language used by us in and out of home.

However, if you are interested you may write to me in response and I shall be glad to send you the sayings in piecemeal every month or as you advise. Your early response shall be highly appreciated.

N N MUJOO

979/10, Panchkula
Haryana-134113

[Dear Shri Mujoo; *NAAD* will be very happy to publish your collected Kashmiri Sayings in instalments. —Ed.]

Mr J N Kaul

President

All India Kashmiri Samaj

Dear Mr Kaul,

Thank you for sending 30 copies of *NAAD* which we despatched among our Kashmiri Pandit community and to several MPs. I am sending you separately an application form from the charity 'Hope' to request funds for help for Kashmiri migrant causes. These should be filled in and returned to 'Hope' charity itself (and not to us directly).

It was nice of you to spend one evening with us at Noida (Sector 45, House No 15) and listen to you describe and explain about the working women's hostel in Noida and later on the visit we made to the Women's Hostel at Noida.

You were kind enough to explain the aims and objectives of our organisation (IEKF) to the migrant Kashmiri Pandit girls for whom you have not only found accommodation but also jobs. We were pleased to talk to the hotel inmates and agree to their proposal to visit a hill station during the hot summer months. As such Rs 10,000 have been sent today by Western Union Money Transfer from London to New Delhi to pay for the

travel expenses of 85 girls to visit a hill station as explained to us by the hostel manager, Mr Sharma. This money has been raised through funds from the Kashmiri Book and Tape Club which has recently been founded through IEKF.

I have informed Dr (Mrs) Ganju to meet the girls at the hostel and exchange greetings and good wishes from the Kashmiri Pandit community of the UK and also to present the cheque.

Yours sincerely,

Dr N N Ganju

Public Relations

Indo-European Kashmiri Forum

[A group of girls enjoyed a couple of summer days in the picturesque hill station — Bhim Tal, as desired by IEKF]

Dear Onkar Kachru Sahab

I am thankful to you for sending the complementary copies of "*NAAD*" regularly. The journal is going well. I wish to see it on the vistas of name and fame. The honorary is paying good dividends and helping our community.

I shall be sending articles, poems, stories, etc for this beautiful journal.

Sincerely yours

"Akh Pron Ishitihaar"

Arjan Dev Majboor

H.No. 207, Ward-12, GPO Udhampur

An Appeal for Humanitarian Help

With a great hope to receive a sympathetic consideration to my humble request, I would like to state that Shri D N GIGOO my bosom friend was suddenly declared a Blood Cancer patient. It is a deadly disease. Now he is undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi in their cancer ward and simultaneously bone marrow matching tests are also being carried on his family members. It is pertinent to mention here that Shri Gigoo originally belongs to Srinagar (Malik Angan, 3rd Bridge). Because of the serious disturbance in the Valley he too, like others migrated to Solan, HP. But now is residing in Jammu with his parents.

It is too painful to note that Sh D N Gigoo is of 41 years age only, and his wife and daughter are solely dependent

on his survival. A huge amount of money has so far been spent by him on his continuous treatment and medication. The process of his prolonged treatment, has now forced him to stretch his hands for help. A zerox copy of the factual position is enclosed herewith for ready reference. You are therefore requested to extend your wholehearted humanitarian support. It will be highly appreciated if you contribute your bit and send the same to me by a Bank Draft in the name of D N GIGOO (concerned patient) payable at JAMMU care of my following address. Shri Gigoo is visiting AIIMS, Delhi every alternative Monday and will collect the Drafts from me.

Your faithfully

TEJ KRISHAN

C/o Kashmir Govt. Arts Emporium
A-7, Baba Kharak Singh Marg
New Delhi-110001 Phone: 3364723

(Continued from last issue) **List of donors from 1.11.1996 to 31.3.1998 Prepared by M L Tikku (Treasurer AIKS)**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Name of the donor</u>
New Delhi	Calendars	1,100/-	Sh T N Kaul
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh Zalpuri, Najafgarh
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Ms Kishori Kaul
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Smt Sheela Kachroo
NOIDA	Trg. & Rehn.	1,001/-	<i>Guptdan</i>
Delhi	Religious books	600/-	Sh T N Wanchoo
Gurgaon	NAAD	100/-	Sh Vijay Alma
Delhi	Religious books	300/-	Sh T N Wanchoo
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh S N Raina
Sahibabad	Calendars	1,000/-	President, Sahibabad Kashmiri Samiti
Hyderabad	Calendars	300/-	Sh A K Kaul
-do-	-do-	225/-	-do-
Jammu	-do-	1,000/-	Sh K K Mam
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Mrs Vijay Bazaz (Razdan)
Jodhpur	Trg. Prog.	120/-	Sh Mohan Krishan Kaul
NOIDA	Trg. & Rehn.	500/-	<i>Guptdan</i>
New Delhi	<i>Mochhifol</i>	251/-	Sh B L Kaul (Chamman)
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Prof V Madan
Calcutta	Calendars	250/-	President, Kashmir Sabha, Calcutta
Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Dr R K Raina
Hyderabad	Calendars	205/-	Sh A K Kaul
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh Sanjay Kaul
Jammu	-do-	100/-	Sh J L Bazaz
New Delhi	Training*	9,000/-	Dr R N Kar
-do-	-do-	9,000/-	-do-
-do-	-do-	9,000/-	-do-
-do-	-do-	9,000/-	-do-
-do-	-do-	9,000/-	-do-
NOIDA	Training	500/-	<i>Guptdan</i>
Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh P N Lidhoo 'Soporee'
Faridabad	-do-	100/-	Sh Radha Krishan Razdan
Jodhpur	Training	120/-	Sh Mohan Krishan Kaul
Chandigarh	<i>Mochhifol</i>	100/-	Dr C M Kaul
New Delhi	-do-	51/-	Sh T N Bhatt
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh P N Kachroo
Jammu	Calendars	2,220/-	Sh M L Raina, President, Purkhoo Camp, Jammu
Jammu	NAAD	100/-	Sh Krantinandan Zutshi, Convenor World Kashmiri Hindu Cultural Conference
Pune	Annual Subs.	300/-	Sh B L Adalti, Gen Secy, KHS, Pune
Pune	Calendars	260/-	-do-
Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Dr Hira Lal Saraf
Calcutta	Annual Subs.	200/-	President, Kashmiri Sabha
Amritsar	-do-	100/-	President (Sh D N Kaul), KPS, Amritsar
Bangalore	NAAD	100/-	Smt Girja Thatoo
Allahabad	Annual Subs.	200/-	President, Kashmiri Samaj, Allahabad
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh T N Labroo
Saharanpur	Annual Subs.	100/-	President, Kashmiri Samiti, Saharanpur
Jammu	NAAD	100/-	Dr Ramesh K Tiwari
Solan	NAAD	100/-	Dr S N Pishan
NOIDA	Trg. Prog.	1,500/-	<i>Guptdan</i>
Faridabad	<i>Mochhifol</i>	200/-	Smt Indira Kaul
Faridabad	NAAD	100/-	Sh R L Sadhu
NOIDA	NAAD	100/-	Sh M M Ganjoo
Faridabad	<i>Mochhifol</i>	200/-	Sh Indira Kaul
Jodhpur	Trg. Prog.	120/-	Sh Mohan Krishan Kaul
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh Prem Nath Kaul
Allahabad	NAAD	25/-	Smt Poonam Dhar
Dehradun	Cost of Shree	15/-	Sh C L Tikku Panchstavi

* Training of 12 migrant children undergoing training in computer/electronics at Faridabad

Chandigarh	NAAD	100/-	Hari Krishan Kaul
Ambala Cantt	NAAD	100/-	Sh Satish Kumar Lidhoo
NOIDA	Trg. Prog.	500/-	<i>Guptdan</i>
Chandigarh	NAAD	100/-	Smt Usha Kachru
Chandigarh	NAAD	100/-	Smt Sushila Kachru
Jammu	NAAD	100/-	Sh Vijay Kachru
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh M L Kachru
Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh J L Kaul
Jammu	NAAD	100/-	Sh P L Chattoo
Faridabad	NAAD	100/-	Sh M K Bhat
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh S N Kaul
Faridabad	<i>Mochhifol</i>	50/-	Sh M K Bhat
New Delhi	<i>Mochhifol</i>	50/-	Sh S N Kaul
Jodhpur	Trg. Prog.	120/-	Sh Mohan Krishan Kaul
Jodhpur	NAAD	100/-	Sh J K Kaul or J K Bhat
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh M L Handoo
Pune	<i>Mochhifol</i>	501/-	Smt Rajni Pathre 'Razdan'
-do-	NAAD	100/-	-do-
Calcutta	Trg. Prog.	10,000/-	Smt Kiran Dar, Trustee Lady Haksar Charity Trust
Delhi	<i>Mochhifol</i>	100/-	Sh B L Kachroo
Delhi	Annual Subs.	100/-	President, Jodhpur Kashmiri Sabha
Jodhpur	Calendars	150/-	Sh Ashok Kumar Labroo, President Kashmiri Sabha, Jodhpur
ALABAMA	Donation	\$ 25	Sh V Gurtu & A K Gurtu
Lucknow	Annual Subs.	300/-	President, Kashmiri Association
Dehradun	NAAD	110/-	Sh C L Dhar
Calcutta	Trg. Prog.	10,000/-	Dr B K Moza, President Kashmir Sabha, Calcutta
Jaipur	Trg. Prog.	120/-	Sh Mohan Krishan Kaul
Sahibabad	Trg. Prog.	1,500/-	President, Kashyap Rishi Sehkari Samiti Ltd., Sahibabad
New Delhi	<i>Mochhifol</i>	300/-	Sh H N Nehru
Udhampur	NAAD	100/-	Sh M K Wali, Chairman, Mochi Phali Saet Athroat, Udhampur
USA	<i>Mochhifol</i>	1,000/-	Sh P N Chaku
New Delhi	<i>Mochhifol</i>	365/-	Sh M L Putto
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh A N Malla
NOIDA	Trg. Prog.	500/-	<i>Guptdan</i>
NOIDA	NAAD	100/-	Sh O N Sharga
Jammu	NAAD	100/-	Sh G L Sumbaly
Delhi	<i>Mochhifol</i>	100/-	Sh B L Kachroo
New Delhi	NAAD	100/-	Sh B Kaul
-do-	<i>Mochhifol</i>	60/-	-do-
Delhi	Gabbas	1,800/-	Sh T N Wanchoo
NOIDA	NAAD	100/-	Dr R K Shivpuri
Jodhpur	Trg. Prog.	120/-	Sh Mohan Krishan Kaul
Chandigarh	NAAD	100/-	Smt Snigdha Bhalla
New Delhi	Trg. Prog.	9,000/-	Dr R N Kar (in favour of AIKS Trust)
New Delhi	Trg. Prog.	18,000/-	Dr R N Kar (in favour of AIKS Trust)
NOIDA	Trg. Prog.	500/-	<i>Guptdan</i>
Dehradun	<i>Mochhifol</i>	301/-	Sh B N K Bamezai
Delhi	Relief & Rehn.	200/-	Sh S N Tikku
USA	Trg. & Rehn.	\$ 500	Dr Deepak K Sachdeva C/o Sh Jeevan Zutshi
Faridabad	<i>Mochhifol</i>	200/-	Smt Indira Kaul
Jammu	NAAD	100/-	Sh Bal Krishan Nazar
Jammu	NAAD	100/-	Sh Surinder Kumar Talsi
Jammu	NAAD	115/-	Sh Veerender Patwari
Gurgaon	NAAD	100/-	Sh Som Nath Kaul
Dhanbad	Donation	100/-	Sh K L Raina
NOIDA	Trg. Prog.	500/-	<i>Guptdan</i>
USA	NAAD	\$ 31	Dr Upinder Kumar Tikku
Lucknow	NAAD	100/-	Dr B N Sharga
-do-	Donation	100/-	-do-
CANADA	Computer	50,000/-	Sh Jatinder Bhan
Faridabad	NAAD	100/-	Sh Girdhari Lal Tikku
New Delhi	Donation	10,000/-	Sh S N Kaul

(Concluded)

चिनार के आँसू

□ अर्जुन देव मजबूर

विस्थापन साहित्य में श्रीमती सुनीता रैना की कृति **चिनार के आँसू** एक और उपलब्धि है। इस लेखिका का यह प्रथम गीत तथा कविता संग्रह है जो इस कृष्ण भक्त कवयित्री ने स्वयं हरियाणा से प्रकाशित करवाया है। सुनीता दयालगाम (अनन्तनाग) की रहने वाली है और उसकी शिक्षा कश्मीर में ही हुई है। सुनीता कश्मीर के जिस क्षेत्र में पली, बड़ी है वह कश्मीरी काव्य के लिए जाना पहचाना है। इसी क्षेत्र ने परमानन्द, कृष्णा जू राजदान, रसुल मीर, महमूद गाभी, मिर्जाकाक, और स्व सर्वानन्द कौल प्रेमी जैसे ख्याति प्राप्त पुराने-नए कश्मीरी कवियों को जन्म दिया है।

आनन्तनाग के इसी सुन्दर, ऐतिहासिक और साहित्यिक क्षेत्र में उत्पन्न हुई सुनीता को आतंकवाद के कारण यहां का प्राकृतिक परिवेश छोड़ना पड़ा और परिवेश के साथ द्यालगाम के सुन्दर चिनारों और घर को भी अलविदा कहना पड़ा। यह कितनी भयंकर त्रासदी थी। सम्भवतः इसी त्रासदी ने सुनीता को एक कवयित्री बनाने में सहयोग दिया। सुनीता कश्मीरी में भी लिखती हैं और हिन्दी में भी।

प्रस्तुत काव्य-संग्रह उन की उन कविताओं और गीतों का चयन है जो उसने जनवरी १९८६ से लिखे हैं। यह काव्य-संग्रह छः भागों में विभक्त है।

सुनीता विस्थापन की सभी समस्याओं के बावजूद आशा का दामन नहीं छोड़ती है। यही आशावादिता उसे एक कश्मीर-कोकिला की उपाधि प्रदान करती है। कृष्ण-भक्त होने से उसके गीतों में मां की ममता, गेयता की भावना और कविता का रस उभर आया है।

यह कविता के लिए अपना पथ स्वयं बनाती है। उसकी दृष्टि स्व से उठ कर सर्वस्व में समा जाती है। उस के गीतों में कश्मीर की अवर्णनीय फिज़ा फूट फूट कर झलकती है और उस वेदना को प्रकट करती है जो एक कवयित्री का मातृ-हृदय ही अच्छी

तरह अनुभव कर सकता है। चिनार की जुबानी सुनीता कहती है :

एक समय था
जब मुझे गर्व था
अपने होने का
उस धरती पर
क्योंकि कई पथिक
दिन भर की थकान के बाद
मेरी छांव में बैठ कर
राहत की सांस लेते थे
और एक समय यह है
जब मैं लज्जित खड़ा हूँ
केवल खड़ा
वह भी इसलिए कि
चाहते हुए भी
मैं उखड़ कर नहीं गिर रहा !

(पृ १२४)

कश्मीर का चिनार एक ऐसी सांस्कृतिक विरासत है जिसमें इस अनुपम स्थल का बहुत कुछ समाकर हमारे आँखों के सामने आता है। इसीलिए कवयित्री ने उस महानवृक्ष के रुदन पर अपने काव्य-संकलन का नामकरण किया है।

मीरा के पदचिह्नों पर चलती हुई सुनीता, बंसी-बजैया का वर्णन इस प्रकार करती है :

नटखट, चंचल, सांवला, सुन्दर
तिरछे चरण और मोर-पखा सर
लाल अधर, मुरली अधरों पर
वही है मेरे श्याम सखी री।

अपनी लेखनी से कवयित्री क्या मांगती है, देखिए :

आज मेरी कलम ! तुम कुछ ऐसा लिखो
तार मन के हिलें, चित का सरगम बजे
सुनीता अपने काव्य-संग्रह में ही सत्य की गहराई को छूती हुई एक दार्शनिक की तरह कहती है :

मैं युगों से सृष्टि की भाषा हूँ
परिभाषा नहीं
रूप कोई पा सकूँ, यह मेरी
अभिलाषा नहीं

शाश्वत इतिहास मेरा,

मैं तो अमृत हो गई (पवन : पृ० ५४)

“कैसे रचनाकार हो तुम” भाग में कवयित्री ने प्रकृति के कुछ कलापों को मुखरित किया है। इस प्रकार की कविताओं में प्रकृति और दार्शनिकता का विचित्र संगम मिलता है।

प्रातः किरण, ओस, चाँदनी आदि कविताओं में कवयित्री इन प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य-कलापों द्वारा सनातन सत्त्यों को मुखरित करती हुई दिखाई देती है।

यही वह दृष्टि और संबल है जो सुनीता से आतंक की अग्नि में भी बेखौफ होकर कहलवाता है:

अब तो इस आतंक की
अग्नि में न झुलसेंगे हम
ठान ली है हमने अपनी
नीति को बदलेंगे हम
श्वास है जब तक तेरे
हेतु जियेंगे आन से
भव्य पीढ़ी को दिशाएँ
नव्य दिखलाएँगे हम।

कवयित्री के गीतों में मिठास है कश्मीर के मधु की ओर इन में गति है वितस्ता के उस जल की जो रक्त और लाशों से असन्तुष्ट और दुखी होने के बावजूद बहता चला जा रहा है और बहता चला जाएगा। काव्य संग्रह में थोड़ी बहुत अशुद्धियाँ तो हैं लेकिन बहुत ही सुन्दर छपा है। आशीर्वाद के रूप में इस संकलन की भूमिका श्री मोती लाल साकी ने लिखी है। इस से पूर्व पृष्ठ पर सुनीता रैना ने डा० भूषण लाल कौल (सीनियर रिसर्चर तथा अध्यक्ष हिन्दी विभाग कश्मीर विश्वविद्यालय) का पुस्तक छपवाने में, उनके सहयोग का आभार प्रकट किया है।

काव्य-संग्रह वंदहामा (गांदरबल) के उन मासूम शिशुओं को समर्पित है जो इस नरसंहार में मारे गये। पुस्तक का मूल्य केवल ७५ रुपए है। मैं सभी साहित्य प्रेमियों और सभी कश्मीरी पंडितों से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे यह संग्रह कवयित्री से मंगा कर अवश्य पढ़ें और इस उभरती काव्य कोकिला को प्रोत्साहित करें।

पुस्तक मंगाने का पता: सूर्य विहार,
गली न. ५, बोड़ी, (तालाब तिल्लो)

जम्मू-१८०००२.

भगवान गोपीनाथ जी

□ डा. शशिशेखर तोषखानी

भगवान गोपीनाथ जी भारत ही नहीं विश्व के उन महानतम संतों में एक थे जिन्होंने मानवता का आध्यात्मिक मार्गदर्शन किया है।

कश्मीर की धरती ने अति प्रचीन काल से ही अनेक महान संतों और आध्यात्मिक विभूतियों को जन्म दिया है, किन्तु वर्तमान समय में भगवान गोपीनाथ जी जैसे संतशिरोमणि बहुत कम हुए हैं जिन्होंने लोगों के मनो पर इतनी अमिट छाप छोड़ी है। भगवान गोपीनाथ जी एक जीवनमुक्त थे — स्थूल शरीर में रहते हुए भी एक मुक्तात्मा। शैव मतानुयायियों के शब्दों में कहें तो वह शाम्भवी अवस्था को प्राप्त कर चुके थे और वेदांतियों के शब्दों में ब्रह्मीस्थिति को। भगवानजी संपूर्ण मानव जाति के आध्यात्मिक उत्थान के लिये प्रयत्नशील रहे, हालांकि उन्होंने कश्मीर से बाहर कभी पांव नहीं रखा और एक अज्ञातनाम व्यक्ति की तरह जीवन बिताया।

भगवान गोपीनाथ जी का जन्म 3 जुलाई 1906 को श्रीनगर काश्मीर के बानामुहल्ला नाम के स्थान में हुआ। वह विधिवत अधिक स्कूली शिक्षा तो नहीं पा सके, पर जो कुछ भी उन्होंने स्कूल में सीखा उसे भली भांति ग्रहण किया। बालक गोपीनाथ तीन वर्ष के थे कि उन्होंने अपने मां को खो दिया, और बीस-बाईस वर्ष की आयु में पिता को। अपने परिवार को आर्थिक सहारा देने के लिये उन्होंने किशोरावस्था में ही एक स्थानीय मुद्रणालय में कंपोज़िटर के रूप में काम करना पड़ा। बाद में, बीस-बाईस के

होने पर वह एक परचून की दुकान चलाने लगे जहां उनका मन नहीं लगता और वह अधिकांश समय ईश्वर के ध्यान में लगे रहते। उनके परिवार—जनों और संबंधियों ने उन पर विवाह करने के लिये जोर दिया, पर इन सभी दबावों के बावजूद वह आजीवन ब्रह्मचारी रहे।

एक युवक के रूप में भगवान गोपीनाथ जी को अपनी वीरता, निर्भयता और बेईमानी से घृणा के लिये नाम मिला। बचपन से ही आध्यात्मिकता की ओर प्रवृत्त होने के कारण वह मार्गदर्शन के लिये कश्मीर के उस समय के जानेमाने संतों—महात्माओं के पास जाने लगे। उनके आध्यात्मिक विकास में स्वामी बालक काक, स्वामी जीवन साहब और स्वामी ज़नकाक तुफ़्ती का विशेष हाथ रहा। विश्वास किया जाता है कि स्वामी ज़नकाक से उन्होंने गुरु दीक्षा ली थी। स्वामी रामजू से भी वह प्रभावित थे और उनका बड़ा आदर करते थे।

भगवान गोपीनाथ जी ने अपनी साधना पांचांग उपासना अर्थात् गणेश, सूर्य, नारायण, शिव और शक्ति इन पांच देवों की उपासना से प्रारंभ की। बाद में वह शारिका मां और निराकार ईश्वर का ध्यान करने लगे। बत्तीस की आयु में वह अपने आपको एक कमरे में बंद करके एक विशेष प्रकार की गहन साधना में रत हुए जिसमें वह ध्यान में इतने लीन हो जाते कि उन्हें अपने शरीर, और भूख प्यास की सुध न रही। यह साधना पूरे सात वर्षों तक चली जिसके बाद उन्हें पूर्ण आत्मज्ञान और बोध प्राप्त हुआ।

इस आध्यात्मिक अनुभव के परिणाम स्वरूप भगवान गोपीनाथ जी अपने शरीर से आध्यात्मिक



तरंगों को उत्साहित करने और वैश्विक तरंगों को ग्रहण करने लगे। वह बहुत ही कम बोलते, अथवा उपदेश देते और दृष्टिमात्र से या फिर सदा जलती रहने वाली अपनी धूनी अथवा चिलम से चुटकी भर भस्म देकर किसी शिष्य को दीक्षा देते। सदा ईश्वर की चेतना में लीन रहते हुए भी वह आध्यात्मिकता की अन्तर्भूति से उत्तर अपनी शरण में आने वाले अथवा आर्शीवाद चाहने वाले लोगों का हाथ थामते। वह उनकी शंकाओं का निवारण करते, उनके कष्टों को दूर करते और उनकी मानसिक समस्याओं को हल करने में उनकी सहायता करते। और प्रेम के सागर भगवान गोपीनाथ जी आध्यात्मिक आश्वासन पाने के लिये अपने पास आये सभी व्यक्तियों पर समान रूप से अपनी कृपा की वर्षा करते।

भगवान गोपीनाथ जी एक तत्वज्ञानी थे, योग शक्ति के साक्षात् रूप थे। अपने आसन पर आसीन

रहते हुए भी वह उस सब के प्रति पूरी तरह से सचेत थे जो उनके चारों ओर घटित हो रहा था। पृथ्वी पर उनका संपूर्ण जीवन मनुष्य मात्र के आध्यात्मिक विकास के उद्देश को समर्पित था। भगवान गोपीनाथ जी ने 20 मई, 1960 को चंदपुरा श्रीनगर में अपने पार्थिव शरीर को त्याग दिया लेकिन देहत्याग के बाद भी वह देश में ही नहीं उसके बाहर भी साधुओं का मार्गदर्शन करते रहे। वास्तव में उनके ऐसे अनेक विदेशी शिष्य हैं जिन्होंने उनके जीवन काल में उन्हें नहीं देखा था, लेकिन जिन्हें आध्यात्मिक रूप से उनका मार्गदर्शन करते हुए उनके दर्शन हुए थे। ये शिष्य ऑस्ट्रेलिया, अमरीका, कनाडा, स्विट्ज़रलैंड और ब्रिटेन जैसे देशों के निवासी हैं। इस प्रकार भगवान गोपीनाथ जी सही अर्थों में जगद्गुरु थे—देश और काल

(शेष अगले कवर पर)

(कवर तीन का शेव)

की सीमाओं से परे।

भगवान गोपीनाथ जी ने अपनी आध्यात्मिक शक्तियों का प्रयोग मृत्यु और विनाश की शक्तियों के विरुद्ध और मानव कल्याण के लिये किया। पाकिस्तान और चीन के साथ हुए युद्धों के दौरान वह बहुत से भारतीय सैनिकों को मोर्चा पर इस या उस दिशा में गोली चलाने के निर्देश देते हुए दिखायी दिये हालांकि वह श्रीनगर में थे। ऐसा ही १९७१ के बंगलादेश युद्ध के दौरान हुआ जब वह अपने पार्थिव शरीर को त्याग चुके थे। भगवान जी के शारीरिक रूप से इस संसार से विदा लेने के बाद उनके कुछ शिष्यों और भक्तों ने खरयार, श्रीनगर में उनकी इच्छानुसार उनके नाम पर एक आश्रम की स्थापना की। यह

वितस्ता (झेलम) नदी के किनारे पर स्थित आम कश्मीरी स्थापत्य को दर्शाता हुआ एक साधारण—सा अवशेष है जहां भगवान जी के कुछ पवित्र अवशेष रखे गये हैं। आश्रम में उनके भक्तगण नित्यप्रति आरती और अन्य आध्यात्मिक गतिविधियों में तल्लीन रहते थे और १९७२ में यहां उन्होंने भगवान जी की एक संगमरमर की प्रतिमा प्रतिष्ठित की।

आध्यात्मिकता के चरम शिखारों का स्पर्श करनेवाले भगवान गोपीनाथ जी का जीवन ज्ञान, भक्ति और कर्म का अद्भुत मिश्रण था। लोगों के मनों से अज्ञान का अंधकार दूर करने वाले भगवान गोपीनाथ जी महर्षि रमण, श्री रामकृष्ण परमहंस और योगिराज अरविंद के समान आध्यात्म के एक शिखर पुरुष थे। अपने

पूरे जीवन में वह मनुष्य को अपनी आंतरिक दिव्यता का बोध कराने और अपने पूरे जीवन में वह मनुष्य को अपनी आंतरिक दिव्यता का बोध कराने और अपनी आध्यात्मिक आधारभूमि को खोजने के लिये प्रेरित करते रहे।

भगवान गोपीनाथ जी ने परमार्थ भाव से शिक्षा देते हुए लोगों को यह समझाया कि दुख और मानव अस्तित्व अभिन्न है। फिर भी अपने अहं के तिरोभाव और इंद्रियों के दमन की परिणति दुख और अस्तित्व की चेतना से परे बोध के प्रकाश की प्राप्ति में होती है। इस वर्ष भारत और विश्व के अनेक देशों में भगवान गोपीनाथ जी की जन्म शताब्दी का भव्य उत्सव मनाया जा रहा है।

The Government of India, Ministry of Communications, Department of Post is releasing a Commemorative Postal Stamp of Bhagavaan Gopinathji in a function organised by Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust, Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi-110048 on July 3, 1998 at Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001.

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Bhagavaanji exerts a beneficent influence on the modern age and its concepts.

His *Ashrams* at Srinagar, Jammu



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